

Region 1

Hot Topics

Judicial Consent Decree Lodged in Clean Water Act Case against City of Holyoke, MA

The City of Holyoke, MA entered into a partial consent decree with the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The decree was lodged with the court on February 21. Under the terms of the agreement, the City will act to remedy NPDES permit violations relating to the City's combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges to the Connecticut River. The agreement specifically requires that Holyoke submit a CSO long term control plan by December 31.

EPCRA Tier 2 Technical Assistance

During the week of February 25, Region 1 staff provided additional technical assistance to over 100 inquires related to EPCRA Tier 2 filing due March 1. Since a recording of the Region's February 13 webinar training was posted on line, there have been an additional 430 viewings.

Reed & Barton Site, Norton, MA

The riverbank stabilization phase of the Reed & Barton Removal Action has been completed and will be documented in a Final Pollution Report. All CERCLA contaminated soil has been excavated, staged and then shipped for disposal to an EPA authorized facility. The Oil and Pollution Act portion of the removal action addressing release of oil is under development in coordination with the National Pollution Funds Center.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Ludlow Mills Roundtable

On March 1, Region 1 Staff will participate in a roundtable to discuss the Ludlow Mills redevelopment project in Ludlow, Massachusetts. Ludlow Mills is a highly successful redevelopment project that has received substantial brownfields funding from the Region. The event is being organized by U.S. Congressman Neal's office.

Worcester Brownfields Redevelopment Activity Undertakes Five Brownfields Projects

The City of Worcester, MA is undertaking a numerous brownfields projects supported with Region 1 brownfields funding. The completed St. Vincent's Hospital assessment is leading to the redevelopment of a 64,000 ft², four-floor wing adjacent to an already redeveloped senior center. The planned reuse includes senior housing, assisted living and/or nursing home care. The Clover Street/Creative Paper site is receiving a \$1.2M loan from the City's Brownfield's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and will result in approximately 32 housing units. Worcester Common Ground/Merrick Street is receiving an RLF subgrant of \$137,500 to develop two vacant lots into a five-unit apartment building providing housing for low-income households. A property in the South Worcester Industrial Park (SWIP) has been redeveloped into an advanced manufacturing facility. Finally, Table Talk Pies is pursuing expansion at several properties within SWIP at which brownfields assessment or cleanup funds were utilized.

Region 2

Hot Topics:

Limetree Bay Terminal (LBT): On Feb. 26, Air Programs Branch and LBT modelers discussed the progress of the EJ analysis associated with LBT's PAL permit. One of the main issues from the last call was largely resolved. They agreed to place modeling receptors both off property and in the EJ locations defined in Region 2's Interim EJ Policy tool. We also agreed that they could use a lower In-Stack-NOx/NO₂ Ratio than the default ratio found in the model. Both LBT and APB will explore the best method for arriving at this short-term limit. We agreed that LBT would email us a proposed procedure just on the short-term emission rate while they work on the protocol to expedite the process. The protocol is expected in four weeks.

Offshore Wind: According to BOEM, Ocean Wind (offshore Atlantic City, NJ) will be submitting a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) to BOEM in April 2019. Should BOEM find the COP adequate, it will prepare an EIS for the construction, operation and demolition of Ocean Wind's proposed wind farm. Empire Wind (located between the vessel approach to NY Harbor south of Long Beach, NY) is expected to submit the COP in the late Summer of 2019.

Grasse River: We continue to work on providing conditional approval for the Arconic Final Design for the dredging/capping remedy. On February 19 we received a letter from the SRMT Chiefs, which mirrored much of the content in the January 31 letter from NYDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. Both letters responded to RA Pete Lopez's December 28 letter concerning habitat-related items. A draft response to Commissioner Seggos' letter has been drafted; a draft response to the SRMT letter has been prepared and will be revised to reflect input from RA on the DEC letter.

Sherwin-Williams: A meeting was held to brief RA Lopez on February 21 about the position EPA has taken on Camden County's decision to partner with Sherwin-Williams to dredge Kirkwood Lake. RA Lopez had a one-on-one call with Congressman Donald Norcross regarding Kirkwood Lake on February 25. Next step – ORC is to contact a legal representative of Camden County to inform them of EPA's position.

First Circuit Decision Upholds FOMB's Authority: On February 22, in the case *Méndez-Núñez v. The Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico, et al.*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit affirmed the district court's dismissal of the complaint filed by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's Legislative Assembly challenging the authority of the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (FOMB) to certify and approve Fiscal Plans and the Territorial Budget. The First Circuit held that the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) grants the FOMB exclusive authority to certify Fiscal Plans and Territory Budgets for Puerto Rico, and pursuant to Section 106(e) of PROMESA, the district court does not have jurisdiction to review challenges to the FOMB's certification determinations.

Upcoming:

Administrator Wheeler's Superfund Announcement in Region 2: Administrator Wheeler is expected to be in Region 2 on March 4 where he will make an important national announcement about the Superfund program. The announcement is expected to take place in Berry's Creek, a major Superfund site, in the New Jersey Meadowlands.

Administrator Wheeler's TRI National Analysis Announcement in Region 2: Region 2 is working closely with the Office of the Administrator and the toxics program on regional amplification of the 2017 TRI National Analysis. A press conference with Administrator Wheeler is scheduled for March 5 in Region 2 headquarters in New York City.

Region 3

Hot Topics

Acting Administrator Announces Baltimore WIFIA Infrastructure Loan – On February 25, EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced a \$202 million Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan to the City of Baltimore for 14 projects to repair, rehabilitate, and replace existing wastewater conveyance and treatment plants. Administrator Wheeler was joined at the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant by Region3 Administrator Cosmo Servidio, Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh, Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles, Baltimore County Executive John A. Olszewski Jr., and Baltimore City Department of Public Works Director Rudolph Chow. The WIFIA funding is being supplemented by state and city funds and more than \$465 million from EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund through MDE. The work will help satisfy a Modified Consent Decree between EPA and Baltimore to eliminate Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). The announcement garnered significant media attention in the Baltimore area with stories in the Baltimore Sun, and Baltimore Observer and WJAZ (CBS), WMAR (ABC) and WBAL (NBC) TV.

Hazardous Materials Training to Local Responders in Southcentral Pennsylvania

During two weekends in mid-February 2019, Region 3 On-Scene Coordinators provided Hazardous Materials Technician Training to emergency responders from York, Cumberland, Franklin, and Dauphin Counties. This 32-hour course provides hands-on training for responders who are interested in joining a hazardous materials team. The training focused on skills to assess and mitigate a release of hazardous materials. The course meets the requirements of OSHA and National Fire Protection Association standards.

EPA Approves Delaware's 2018 Impaired Waters List

On February 22, Region 3 approved Delaware's 2018 Section 303(d) list of impaired waters still requiring Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The 303(d) list is part of Delaware's 2018 Combined Watershed Assessment Report (Integrated Report), which combines Clean Water Act section 305(b) and 303(d) reporting requirements. The 2018 list includes updated GIS information and was Delaware's first list submitted electronically through EPA's Assessment TMDL Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) with significant help from regional staff. The 2018 303(d) list included two new impaired segments for dieldrin in Drawyer Creek and Upper Christina River.

Region 3 Presents to National Capital Region Stakeholders its Regional Laboratory Capabilities

On February 12, 2019, staff from EPA Region 3 presented at the National Capital Region Laboratory Capabilities Workshop, providing an overview of the regional laboratory capabilities and support role during an emergency or an incident with an unknown contaminant. The workshop was attended by laboratory directors and personnel from local drinking water facilities, the State of Maryland, Commonwealth of Virginia, and District of Columbia. The workshop discussed laboratory capabilities and resources available during an emergency that affects the drinking water for the National Capital Region.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio has the following events scheduled:

- March 4 – Meeting in Harrisburg, PA with Rep. Daniel Meuser (PA house) regarding

municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s)

- March 6 – Phone conference with Rep. Todd Stephens (PA house) regarding PFAS concerns.

Region 4

Hot Topics

Paducah (U.S. Department of Energy; Paducah, KY)

Key Message: On February 25, 2019, Region 4 held a call with the Paducah Environmental Manager and the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection Director to discuss next steps in the two outstanding formal disputes at the Senior Executive Committee level. The parties came to a verbal agreement on the Site Management Plan dispute and extended it for a week to allow for time to complete the paperwork. In addition, all parties agreed to extend the formal dispute related to the C-400 Removal Notification to March 29, 2019 to allow for technical discussions regarding the Sampling and Analysis Plan.

Chemours Notice of Temporary Objection

Key Message: On February 26, 2019, EPA received a response from the Netherlands to questions the EPA asked of the Netherlands in a December 19, 2018, Notice of Temporary Objection. Region 4 is coordinating with OLEM on the review. In addition, the Agency is still waiting on a response from the Chemours Fayetteville Works facility to questions posed in the Notice of Temporary Objection.

Rockwell International Wheel and Trim Superfund Site (Grenada, MS)

Key Message: Region 4 plans to conduct neighborhood sampling for March 25-April 4. The original sampling date was canceled due to the shutdown. In addition, we are coordinating with OGC and OLEM on the NPL Listing Challenge.

Upcoming Major Events

Waters of the US Listening Session – On March 11 -12, 2019, Acting Region 4 Administrator Mary Walker will provide opening remarks for the WOTUS Listening Session. Atlanta, GA. Closed Press.

Kentucky Environmental Conference – On March 15, 2019, Acting Region 4 Administrator Mary Walker will provide keynote remarks at the Kentucky Environmental Conference. Lexington, KY. Open Press.

Upcoming Major Decisions

March 29, 2019 – Paducah Formal Dispute Resolution for the C-400 Removal Notification
Oak Ridge Reservation Focused Feasibility Study Dispute Position

Region 5

Hot Topics

Sterigenics Seal Order Remains in Effect

Key Message: The Illinois order remains in effect and motion hearings that could potentially lift it have yet to be scheduled.

Per the Illinois Attorney General's request, Region 5 and OAQPS will coordinate on affidavits or other written methods to verify the validity of the data collected. EPA, as well as the Village of Willowbrook and Sterigenics, continue to collect samples near the facility and plan to collect into March. This week, another former Sterigenics employee came forward with allegations of EtO gas leaks and orders to mop residue into the drainage system.

Region 5 and OAQPS Coordinating on Path Forward on Lake County EtO Concerns

Key Message: Multiple Lake County officials have requested that EPA conduct ambient monitoring, perform dispersion modeling and hold a public meeting about the Medline and Vantage EtO sources.

Illinois State Senator Melinda Bush introduced a Joint Resolution to the Illinois General Assembly, requesting that EPA "conduct ambient air monitoring, with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency do everything in their power to assist." Additionally, the Lake County Health Department issued a press release, which stated that they are "taking measures to assure air monitoring will occur and has requested that the U.S. EPA conduct a town hall meeting in Lake County." The Illinois Department of Public Health has echoed these requests.

Congressional Interest in Manganese Emissions from Watco's Southeast Chicago Facility

Key Message: Sens. Duckworth and Durbin have pressed for EPA action to reduce emissions from Watco, which has contributed to high concentrations of manganese in the ambient air.

Concentrations have been decreasing due to company actions, and on Feb. 22, 2019, Watco agreed to stop processing manganese material at their Chicago facility; there is no timeframe for this as yet. There are three facilities in southeast Chicago that handle and emit manganese. Two (SH Bell and Watco) are causing ambient manganese concentrations above the ATSDR health screening level. EPA issued notices of violation to both and is working to reduce emissions. EPA is drafting a response to Sens. Durbin and Duckworth, who are echoing the high level of community interest.

Asian Carp in Maumee River in Ohio

Key Message: The discovery of larval stages of grass carp in the Maumee River strengthens the case that there is an "established" population of Asian carp in the Great Lakes (Lake Erie). It is expected that USGS and the Ohio Department of Natural resources will be publicly announcing this discovery next week.

Adult grass carp have been detected in Lake Erie tributaries or embayments for some time, but federal and state agencies have taken the position that because not all life cycles of the grass carp had been detected within a single year, the species could not be deemed to be "established." Grass carp are probably the least environmentally harmful of the four Asian carp species, but announcement of this discovery is likely to generate significant interest and generate vigorous discussion about whether grass carp should now be considered established in Lake Erie.

GLRI Action Plan III has been released to states and tribes for their review and input.

Key Message: A draft of Action Plan III, the blueprint for GLRI activities for FY 20-24, was provided to Great Lakes states and tribes on Feb. 28. States and tribes are being given until April 1, 2019, to provide feedback on the draft plan.

The states and tribes are being given an opportunity to participate in two webinars during the review period, and written comments will be accepted through April 1. After the state and tribal feedback has been considered, the next step will be making the plan available for general public input. The plan must be finalized by Sept. 30, 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MAJOR DECISIONS:

RA Stepp to Meet with MDEQ Senior Leaders on March 4

Key Message: The meet and greet will take place in Lansing, Mich., and is part of a broader effort by RA Stepp to strengthen state relations.

RA Stepp to Meet with Freshman Congressionals March 5-7

Key Message: While in Washington, D.C., RA Stepp will be meeting with Rep. Casten on March 6. Invitations to meet with Sen. Braun (IN) and Reps. Steil (WI-1), Craig (MN-2), Phillips (MN-3), Stauber (MN-8), Gonzalez (OH-16), Baird (IN-4) and Slotkin (MI-8) are pending.

Rep. Casten would like to discuss the ongoing situation at the Sterigenics facility in Willowbrook, the EPA's roll in combatting climate change (especially as it relates to the region), the EPA realignment, as well as the rates of EPA inspections, DOJ referrals, and fines under the current administration. OAR senior leadership will participate in the meeting as well.

RA Stepp to Meet with Great Lakes Commission Board Members March 7

Key Message: The group will discuss current Great Lakes issues, including EPA's responsibilities under the recently enacted Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA).

VIDA was enacted in late 2018 and, among other things, created a new Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program to be administered by the Great Lakes National Program Office. This new legislation has raised considerable interest, and it is expected that the board members will have some question about the creation and implementation of this new program.

Region 6

Hot Topics

Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC, St. James Parish, Louisiana

Mosaic continues to make progress with water management. The northern slope of the stack continues to move approximately 0.5 inches per day, although the probability of a catastrophic release has diminished. DOJ and EPA phosphoric acid manufacturing consultants and Gyp Stack engineers are continually reviewing Mosaic's data to verify their projections. Mosaic is completing a stormwater diversion project that will free up additional stable impoundment space for wastewater. LDEQ inspects the site every day and relays information to EPA and DOJ. Baton Rouge Advocate news article is expected soon.

Trafalgar Road Fire, Benton, Arkansas

None of the EPA's air samples showed elevated concentrations of chemicals of concern in the community. The sample results on-site were below Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) worker safety standards. Results have been shared with ADEQ and the Congressional delegation. EPA collected air samples from five locations in the community around the Trafalgar Road property and one onsite location on February 10, 11 and 12, 2019. EPA tested the air samples for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and hydrogen cyanide (HCN). These compounds are potentially associated with the landfill fires containing construction debris, household waste or tires.

Bird Creek Settlement, Osage County, Oklahoma

EPA continues to work with DOJ related to the technical terms of the settlement with the parties involved with the impact to Bird Creek. A 35-day public comment period will be initiated on proposed UIC wells after settlement occurs. A motion of extension was granted for the case through March 7.

Denka Performance Elastomer, LLC, La Place, Louisiana

EPA and Denka representatives will meet on March 6 to discuss chloroprene emissions, EPA's proposed process area monitoring, and updates on their request for reconsideration of the IRIS assessment. Denka was included in Eric Schaeffer's testimony at this week's House Oversight Hearing on EPA's enforcement program. A New Orleans Times-Picayune article is expected soon.

Major Decisions and Events

Arkansas SO2 Re-designation, Independence County, Arkansas

By March 19, EPA anticipates final action on re-designation of Independence County from unclassifiable to unclassifiable/attainment based on new modeling. The comment period closed on December 24 and no adverse comments were received. A letter from ADEQ was received in support of finalizing our proposal. The re-designation was requested by Governor Hutchinson. This is the first such action in the country.

DFW NOx RACT, TXI Industries, Ellis County, Texas

By March 19 EPA anticipates final action converting earlier conditional approval to full approval of revisions to the Texas SIP addressing NOx Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) for the TXI Operations, LP cement manufacturing plant in Ellis County, Texas.

2008 Ozone Standard Volatile Organic Compound SIP and Reasonably Achievable Control Technology, Houston/Galveston/Brazoria, Texas

By March 28, EPA anticipates final approval of the Texas' 2008 Reasonably Achievable Control Technology (RACT) demonstration for the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria non-attainment area.

Redesignation/Maintenance Plans for the 1-hour and 1997 8-hour Ozone Standards, Beaumont/Port Arthur, Texas

By March 28 EPA anticipates proposed approval of Texas SIP revisions for the old 1-hour and 1997 8-hour ozone air quality standards for a Beaumont/Port Arthur area. The SIP also includes a second 10-year maintenance SIP revision.

Texas codification for RCRA Clusters XXIII-XXIV, Texas

By March 29, EPA anticipates final action to codify Texas for RCRA Clusters XXIII-XXIV.

Oklahoma RCRA Cluster XXIV Authorization, Oklahoma

By March 29, EPA anticipates final authorization of Oklahoma for RCRA Cluster XXIV. The authorization was proposed in Federal Register on October 3, 2018.

March 6 **Denka Elastomers LLC Meeting, Dallas, TX**

March 7 **Lane Plating Works Inc. Superfund Site community meeting, Dallas, Texas.**
Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson may attend.

March 14 **Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA**

Region 7

Hot Topics

Regions 7 and 8 Tribal Response Meeting

Key Message: On February 26 and 27, the Regions 7 and 8 Brownfields offices, along with the Kansas State University Technical Assistance for Brownfields Program, hosted a meeting in Omaha, Nebraska with tribes from both regions to help develop environmental best practices on tribal lands. The meeting included presentations and discussions on Brownfield's program element activities including site inventories, site assessment, risk communication, open dumps, Above Storage Tanks/Underground Storage Tanks, improper/unmarked chemical storage (e.g. roads dept/compound), vacant/sick buildings (ACM, Pb, mold, meth), burnt buildings, resources, and partners.

Carter Carburetor Redevelopment Meeting

Key Message: EPA met with stakeholders of the Carter Carburetor Superfund site to discuss liability protections related to potential redevelopment and EPA resources for redevelopment planning. EPA has engaged Skeo, the EPA redevelopment contractor, to assist with future reuse planning at the site. PGA REACH, a nonprofit organization, has presented information on a preliminary plan to redevelop part of the site as a golf training and educational facility for area youth.

Upcoming Events

17th Annual Radon Stakeholders' Meeting February 5 in St. Joseph, Missouri. The meeting brings together Region 7 public and private industry stakeholders having an interest in protecting the public from unnecessary exposure to radon in their homes, schools and businesses.

On March 4, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford will attend a meeting with DICO, IDNR and the city of Des Moines in Des Moines, Iowa.

On March 5, 6 and 7, Deputy Regional Administrator Ed Chu will attend the Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting in Washington D.C.

Region 8

Hot Topics

Uinta Basin (Utah) Marginal Ozone Nonattainment Area: Based on 2018 and 2019 data, it appears inevitable that the Basin will be bumped up to “moderate” nonattainment in 2021. This week I will be meeting with the Ute Indian Tribe Business Committee to introduce a comprehensive plan for managing air quality in the Uinta Basin and to consult with the Tribe on the contents of the Region’s draft Uinta and Ouray reservation specific FIP.

I will also be meeting with the Utah DEQ and Utah Petroleum Association. I plan to introduce the comprehensive plan for Uintah Basin. I will also inform industry that we’ve identified noncompliance in the Basin (from summer 2018 inspections) and we intend to resolve the issues expeditiously. I will generally introduce the self-certification/self-audit pilot program and solicit member companies for their individual feedback.

Sunnyside Gold requests EPA Inspector General to investigate Region 8’s role at the Bonita Peak Mining District Site: Sunnyside Gold Corporation, a potentially responsible party at the Bonita Peak Mining District Site, requested the EPA Inspector General to investigate EPA’s cleanup work at the Site. The PRP asserted EPA has a conflict of interest based on the Agency’s connection to the Gold King Mine spill that occurred in 2016 and the pending lawsuits relating to the spill. The request was reported in the Durango Herald newspaper on February 26. Region 8 issued a statement in response to press inquiry and will be sending a response to Sunnyside Gold.

Upcoming Decisions/Events - None

Region 9

Hot Topics

1. Mexican Border:

- a. On Monday, March 4, Administrator Wheeler will meet with San Diego County (CA) Supervisor Greg Cox regarding the County's interest in new legislation to address border-wide drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. Concurrently, Santa Cruz County (AZ) representatives will meet in HQ with OW and Reg. 9 to discuss Nogales wastewater infrastructure, also the subject of a Tuesday interagency call of DOJ (Brightbill), ADEQ (Cabrera), and Reg. 9 RA (Stoker) to address litigation brought by Arizona against the IBWC.
 - b. On Wed/Thursday, March 6-7, Reg. Administrator Stoker will meet with the state directors of newly elected Senators McSally and Sinema in Phoenix to discuss potential solutions to transboundary sewage flows, per their recent correspondence and request to meet.
2. **FIFRA Import Denials:** we denied an shipment of plug-in "critter control pest repellers" offered for sale on Amazon to deter household pests, as these didn't meet EPA's FIFRA requirements for pesticidal devices and cannot be legally distributed in the US. We also denied a shipment of solar-powered mosquito lamps, produced in an unregistered facility and misbranded, both FIFRA violations. These two shipments will be exported or destroyed under Customs and Border Protection supervision.
 3. **Edwards AFB Dispute:** via VTC, RA Stoker will join Administrator Wheeler and HQ colleagues in the Edwards Air Force Base dispute meeting on Friday, March 7.

UPCOMING DECISIONS AND EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

1. **CWA standards:** we are approving two California water-quality-standards packages: the recreational objectives adopt EPA's nationally recommended bacterial indicator standards and implementation provisions, and the sediment-quality objectives update narrative standards and implementation procedures for toxicants in aquatic sediments.
2. **Lead-based paint dust:** we convened our quarterly meeting of the Bay Area Deconstruction Workgroup to support innovative policies to reduce waste and demolition-related lead-based-paint dust exposure. Experts presented on building materials reuse data and deconstruction training contacts.
3. **Arizona:** Regional Administrator Mike Stoker will provide the keynote address at the EPAZ conference in Tempe, Arizona, and will meet with ADEQ Director Misael Cabrera while in Phoenix.

Region 10

Hot Topics

None to report.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee and Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit, Portland, OR: On March 4th and 5th, Region 10 staff and managers will participate in the RTOC quarterly meeting in Portland, OR. The RTOC meeting will be followed by the Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit, March 6 - 8. The Region 10 Tribal Environmental Leader's Summit includes tribal administrators, council members, or other tribal leaders and their environmental staff. The summit will have separate tracks for air, land, and water, as well as sessions focused on youth engagement. Senior leaders from EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs will be in attendance, including Assistant Administrator Chad McIntosh, Senior Advisor Nathaniel Zimmer, and Senior Advisor Andrew Baca. Regional Administrator Chris Hladick and Deputy Regional Administrator Michelle Pirzadeh will also attend portions of the RTOC and Tribal Leaders Summit.

Region 10 Recognizes City of Olympia for Innovation in Drinking Water Infrastructure (WA): The City of Olympia was selected to receive a Region 10 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund WATERS award for their McAllister Wellfield Corrosion Control Facility Project. Region 10's Washington Operations Office Director will present the award to City of Olympia at their March 5th city council meeting. Olympia is one of six entities in Region 10 receiving WATERS awards.

Senior EPA Managers Meet with Portland Harbor Parties on Cleanup Progress: On March 5th, in Washington, D.C., EPA senior management, including Regional Administrator Chris Hladick (who will travel from Seattle), will meet with Portland Harbor Superfund Site Potentially Responsible Parties. This is part of a series of meetings intended to move cleanup forward. Separately, on March 7th in Portland, EPA staff will meet with Arkema to discuss remedial design adjacent to their historic facility within the Superfund site.

Region 10 Attends Alaska District Corps of Engineers Leadership Meeting: On March 7th, Region 10 management will attend a meeting with leadership from the Corps of Engineers-Alaska District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, NOAA-NMFS, and BLM to discuss a number of issues related to the permitting and environmental review of large projects in Alaska including the One Federal Decision Executive Order, Clean Water Act section 404 permitting, NEPA sequencing, the EPA-Corps Alaska Mitigation MOA, and ESA consultation. This meeting of federal partners with responsibilities for approving large projects in Alaska was called by the Corps.

Region 10 Issues Draft NPDES Permits for Two Mines in N. Idaho: At the end of February and in early March, Region 10 will issue two draft NPDES permits for north Idaho mines for public review and comment. One permit is for the Hecla Limited Lucky Friday Mine, the other is for the U.S. Silver Coeur-Galena facility. Both are reissuances of administratively continued permits. EPA, in partnership with Idaho DEQ, is targeting completion of these permit actions prior to Idaho DEQ assuming responsibility for the industrial sector wastewater permitting on July 1st of this year, consistent with their recently approved NPDES program.

Region 10 Issues NPDES Permit for Offshore Seafood Processing off the Coast of Oregon and

Washington: On March 1st, Region 10 will issue the final NPDES general permit for seafood processing vessels that operate in federal waters off the coast of Oregon and Washington. This general permit will provide NPDES permit coverage for 11 facilities who have submitted applications to the Agency. This action is part of Region 10's effort to eliminate the NPDES pending permit backlog. EPA recently completed tribal consultation with the coastal tribes in Washington and also completed the Coastal Zone Management Act coordination with the State of Oregon which were the final steps necessary to move ahead with final issuance. The permit will be effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register which is expected in 1-2 weeks.

Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

- **Tracking SIP Actions:**
 - Total Number of SIPs submitted to Regions in FY 2019: 125
 - Total Number of SIP Submittals with Final Action taken by the Regions in FY 2019: 83
 - Total Number of Pending SIPs: 783
- **Packages for Signature:**
 - Stationary Combustion Turbines RTR Proposal – in OP
 - CISWI NSPS and Emission Guidelines Technical Amendments – in OP
- **Packages at (or soon to be at) OMB for Review:**
 - PM2.5 Precursor Demonstration Guidance
 - Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act (Proposed Rule)
 - Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule)
 - Modifications to Fuel Regulations to Provide Flexibility for E15; Modifications to RFS RIN Market Regulations (Proposed Rule) – will move to OP later today
 - 2020 Ozone Depleting Substances Phaseout Rule (Proposed Rule) – in OP
- Upcoming Major Decisions and Events
- **Upcoming Public Hearings:**
 - March 18th: Public hearing here in Washington, DC on the Proposed Revised Cost Finding for MATS and Results of the Residual Risk and Technology Review
- **Automotive Trends Report:** Next week (aiming for 3/6 or 3/7) we anticipate publishing our new annual report with information about light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, fuel economy, technology data, and auto manufacturers' performance in meeting the agency's GHG emissions standards. This report includes content previously published in two separate reports, the *Light-Duty Automotive Technology, Carbon Dioxide Emissions, and Fuel Economy Trends Report*, and the *GHG Manufacturer Performance Report*. These reports have now been combined to provide a more comprehensive analysis.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Hot Topics

- **2017 Annual Toxics Release Inventory Report and Analysis:** The week of March 4th, EPA is planning a national release of the 2017 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Analysis. Results of this publicly available database show that since 2007, releases of TRI chemicals in the U.S. manufacturing sector has steadily declined while production increased. Industrial facilities have reduced releases of TRI chemicals by taking action to prevent pollution. Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), facilities must report their annual releases of TRI chemicals for the prior calendar year to EPA by July 1. EPA, states, and tribes receive TRI data from facilities in industry sectors such as manufacturing, mining, electric utilities, and commercial hazardous waste management.
- **Webinars for Importers of Formaldehyde-Containing Composite Wood Products:** EPA is co-hosting the second of two webinars and March 6, along with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), to provide compliance assistance to importers and other regulated stakeholders under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Title

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **Association of American Pesticide Control Officials Spring Meeting:** Several OCSPP senior leaders will present during the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials' (AAPCO) Spring Meeting, March 3-5, in Alexandria, VA. Assistant Administrator, Alex Dunn, will present on key OCSPP priorities. Rick Keigwin, Director of the Office of Pesticide Programs, will give Program updates and Ed Messina (Deputy Director) and multiple OPP staff will give presentations on diverse topics including: devices, hemp, paraquat, dicamba, biostimulants and pollinators.
- **Tribal Pesticide Program Council:** OPP will host the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) March 6-8, at EPA. Assistant Administrator, Alex Dunn, will provide remarks. The TPPC is a tribal technical resource dialogue group focused on pesticide issues and concerns and is composed of authorized representatives from federally recognized tribes, Indian nations and intertribal organizations.
- **2019 GlobalChem Conference & Exhibition (March 6-8):** Assistant Administrator Alex Dunn will be delivering the keynote address covering her priorities and vision for TSCA implementation on March 7th at the 2019 GlobalChem Conference & Exhibition in Washington, DC. This 3-day annual conference focused on TSCA brings together a variety of interested stakeholders including NGOs and industry and is organized by the American Chemistry Council. OCSPP's Deputy Assistant Administrator Erik Baptist will present and participate on the panel "*TSCA Risk Management: Updates and What To Expect.*" Jeff Morris, Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, will present *EPA OPPT Priorities and Planning for 2019* and participate on a panel "*TSCA's Future: Vision for Implementation.*" Numerous other managers and staff from OPPT will present and participate in workshops and other sessions throughout the event.
- **CropLife America (CLA) Winter Board Meeting:** Assistant Administrator, Alex Dunn, will be delivering remarks at the CLA Winter Board Meeting reception on March 5, 2019. CLA is a national trade association that represents pesticide manufacturers and distributors.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics

- OCFO remains committed to and continues to work with and provide guidance to employees to resolve any remaining post-shutdown issues and questions. OCFO also is working with our payroll provider, IBC, to implement the retroactive pay increase of 1.9 percent and anticipates employees receiving the pay increase in upcoming pay checks.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- EPA must develop and deliver a draft FY 2019 operating plan to OMB by March 11, and the OMB-approved plan to Congress by March 18. OCFO plans to send operating plan decisions and guidance to agency programs this week. To meet the OMB deadline, the agency must complete budget data entry next week.
- This week, OCFO will submit the Acting Administrator's statement for his signature by March 8 attesting to the reliability and completeness of EPA's performance data in the FY 2018 Annual Performance Report issued as part of the EPA's FY 2020 Congressional Justification. The AAs' certifications of the reliability of their data, due February 28, serve as the basis for the Acting Administrator's statement. OCFO has received all but two certifications.
- OCFO continues to work with program offices to prepare the FY 2020 President's Budget materials. The FY 2020 President's Budget materials will be transmitted to Congress and made available to the public as follows:
 - March 11 – OMB will present the overall federal budget, and EPA will deliver the agency Budget in Brief and press release, and
 - March 18 – EPA will deliver the agency's Congressional Justification to Congressional Appropriators.
- OCFO will issue guidance to the agency next week regarding conducting the internal agency review of draft FY 2020-2021 National Program Guidances. The internal agency review is slated for March 8 with completion by March 15.

Office of the Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

- **March 5** - Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee will hold a hearing entitled, “Role of States in Protecting Air Quality.”
- **March 5** - Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing entitled, “The Electricity Sector in a Changing Climate.”
- **March 6** – House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Environment will hold a hearing entitled, “Examining PFAS Chemicals and their Risks” (EPA Witness: Dave Ross, AA for Water)
- **March 7** – House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Environment will hold a hearing entitled, “The Clean Water State Revolving Fund: How Federal Infrastructure Investment Can Help Communities Modernize Water Infrastructure and Address Affordability Challenges (EPA Witness: None)

Upcoming Events

- **March 4** - Representatives from Santa Cruz County, Arizona, will meet with staff from EPA’s Office of Wastewater Management and EPA Region 9 to discuss the county’s challenges stemming from the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), a facility which straddles the U.S. border
- **March 4** - Mayor John Headding will lead a delegation of city officials in a meeting with OIR, the Office of Water, and Region IX to discuss Morro Bay’s Water Reclamation Facility Project.
- **March 5** - OCIR and OAR will co-host a meeting with San Bernardino County (CA) Supervisor Janice Rutherford to discuss EPA’s Cleaner Trucks Initiative (CTI) and its attendant proposal for a new lower Nox emission standard for heavy duty trucks.
- **March 5** - OCIR and OLEM will co-host a meeting with Marion County, OR, Commissioners Kevin Cameron and Colm Willis to discuss the Brownfields program
- **March 6** - Representative Henry Cuellar (TX-28), EPA HQ and Region VI staff will meet with Lared, TX local officials to discuss the City’s Priority Policy Agenda for 2019
- **March 6** - EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler will meet with San Diego County Supervisor and outgoing NACo President Greg Cox (R-CA) to discuss possible paths forward to address long-term environmental and public health problems posed by decades of cross-boundary sewage, sediment and trash that flow into San Diego County’s coastal waterways
- **March 7** - Councilmembers and Public Works Officials will meet with EPA to discuss the city’s Lower Bay Dredging Project and relevant Clean Water Act requirements.
- **March 11** - EPA will meet with Tucson Water officials to discuss the Agency’s PFAS Action Plan and future consideration as it relates to action taken in the City.
- **March 11** - Congressman David Rouzer (NC-7), Mayor Bill Saffo and members of his City Council, along with possibly other mayors from the Wilmington region, will meet with headquarters and Region IV staff to seek an understanding of the EPA decision-making process related to enforceable drinking water standards for water PFOA/PFAS
- **March 10-13** - The National League of Cities will convene its Annual Congressional City Conference (CCC) in Washington, DC
- **March 13** - Mayor Pro Tem Tom Haughey and Public Works Director Amer Jakher will meet with EPA to discuss the City’s interest in funding support to expand its Water Treatment Facility as well as its wellhead treatment efforts.
- **March 13** - Region IX, the Office of Air and Radiation, and the Office of Water will join OIR in a meeting with Vice Mayor Russ Melton and two of his Councilmembers to discuss several topics of concern: (1) The Proposed Green New Deal Federal Legislation; (2) Carbon Emissions Standards for

New Coal-Fired Power Plants; (3) Federal CAFÉ Standards; and, (4) the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics:

PFAS Analytic Tools Sent for State Review

On February 20, 2019, OECA sent its PFAS analytic tools to 14 states that were selected by the Environmental Council of States (ECOS). The tools integrate available national data about PFAS detections in a variety of dashboards and maps and include an interactive tool that provides drinking water, fish tissue, discharge and contaminated site information. Under the PFAS Action Plan, EPA is also beginning a partnership with the states to develop a best practices guide and data standards for contributing information about PFAS detections. This effort will allow more information to flow into the PFAS Analytic Tools – helping government agencies identify which communities have potential vulnerabilities to PFAS chemicals.

California Resident Sentenced To 30 Months in Prison for Illegal Dumping In Wetlands And Other Protected Waters

On February 25, 2019, James Lucero was sentenced in the Northern District of California to serve 30 months in prison followed by one year of supervised release. A hearing to determine the amount of restitution has been set for May 28, 2019. Lucero, a self-described “dirt broker,” orchestrated the illegal discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States adjacent to Mowry Slough, near the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge located in Newark, California. Lucero charged a fee to contractors and trucking companies in exchange for providing open space to dump fill material, including construction debris. The defendant caused 1,800 industrial-sized truckloads of construction debris and fill material to be dumped on private property containing federally-protected wetlands and other waters of the United States. Lucero did so without obtaining permission of the landowner and without applying for or obtaining a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Environmental Protection Agency. On February 21, 2018, a federal jury found Lucero guilty on two counts of the Unpermitted Filling of Wetlands and one count of the Unpermitted Discharge of Fill Material to a Tributary.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

On March 5-7, 2019, OECA will hold its Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting with participation from enforcement managers from the Regions and HQ to strategize on upcoming enforcement and compliance program priorities.

Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics

- *Gulf Restoration Network v. EPA*, No. 18-1632 (E.D. La.). New Decision: Grants EPA's motion for remand to reconsider its approval of Louisiana's dissolved oxygen criteria for the eastern Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plains Ecoregion and its approval of revised boundaries for 42 subsegments within the ecoregion. The court granted EPA's motion for remand and denied, as moot, Gulf Restoration's motion for summary judgment against EPA. EPA sought remand to complete Endangered Species Act consultation in connection with the approvals. As EPA requested, the court did not vacate EPA's approval of the revised boundaries pending reconsideration. The court did, however, vacate EPA's approval of the dissolved oxygen criterion, except where it had been incorporated by the state into a single National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- *WaterLegacy v. EPA*, No. 1:19-cv-412-JEB (D.D.C.). New FOIA Litigation: On Tuesday, February 19, 2019, WaterLegacy, represented by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against EPA in the District of Columbia. The suit concerns a 2018 FOIA request for "a copy of the EPA Region 5 final comments on the draft NPDES permit proposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the PolyMet project in January 2018 (Minnesota Permit No. MN0071013)." WaterLegacy alleges that EPA Region 5's Water Division failed to produce records responsive to their request.
- *State of New York v. EPA*, No. 1:19-cv-00712-KPF (S.D.N.Y.). New FOIA Litigation: On January 28, 2019, the State of New York filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in the Southern District of New York. The FOIA request at issue seeks four categories of records related to EPA's compliance with Executive Order 13,132 for the SAFE Rule proposal.
- *The New York Times v. EPA*, No. 1:19-cv-776-CM (S.D.N.Y.). New FOIA Litigation: On January 25, 2019, The New York Times filed a FOIA lawsuit against EPA in the Southern District of New York. The New York Times' FOIA request, as narrowed through communications with EPA, seeks communications since January 1, 2016, to/from EPA and BASF and Monsanto regarding Dicamba with "a specific interest in the deliberations and discussions of the Dicamba drift issues, and the considerations within the Agency to restrict when Dicamba can be sprayed." The New York Times alleges that OCSPP failed to produce records responsive to their requests.

Upcoming Major Events

Mexichem Fluor, Inc., et al. v. EPA, No. 17-1024 (D.C. Cir.) (*Mexichem II*).

Oral argument: March 8. Challenge to EPA's 2016 CAA Title VI rule changing the listing of certain hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) from acceptable to unacceptable under the Significant New Alternatives Program (SNAP). EPA's and Mexichem's position is that a 2017 opinion (*Mexichem I*) controls and that the Court should so hold and remand the rule back to EPA. Intervenor-respondents argue that *Mexichem I* did not foreclose their arguments that the Court lacks jurisdiction over the challenge, because, as they argue, it is really a challenge to aspects of the 1994 regulations implementing Title VI.

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Meeting -

OITA AA, OW, and Region 5 met with the Chairman and other tribal members from the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe to discuss their CWA TAS application and Region 5 regional reorganization. The tribe also expressed the importance of meaningful consultation and open dialogue on environmental matters. OITA AA reaffirmed EPA's commitment to meaningful tribal consultation and the 1984 Indian Policy. Region 5 also announced completion of their regional review policy for TAS applications and intent to complete the review of the Leech Lake Band TAS application.

GAO Report on Tribal NPL Sites - GAO released a report which analyzed NPL sites that are on tribal property or that affect tribes and EPA's consultation with tribes at these sites. GAO reviewed laws and policies, assessed EPA data on NPL sites, and interviewed EPA and tribal officials about cleanup actions and consultations at six NPL sites. The GAO is making four recommendations to EPA, including that it take actions to improve the data it collects and to clearly define circumstances under which consultation with tribes should be considered. EPA generally agreed with GAO's recommendations.

Japan Ministry of Environment Meeting -OITA AA, OLEM and OW met with a delegation from the Japan Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Japanese Embassy to discuss the G20 Environment Ministers' Meeting. Japan shared its vision for addressing marine litter and circulated current drafts of the joint resolution on *Strengthening global governance on marine plastic litter and microplastics* for UNEA-4, draft of the Marine Litter Implementation Framework of the G20, and first draft of the G20 Ministers Communique. Japan expressed its intent to work closely with the United States to develop these documents and OITA is circulating the documents for interagency review.

Upcoming Major Decisions/Events:

March 5-6 - OITA AA will participate in the Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit and Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting.

March 4 - OITA, OW, OGC and Region 1 will meet with Tribal Leaders from the Penabscoot Tribe to discuss Maine water quality standards.

March 4-6 - OITA and OCIR will meet with local officials from Santa Cruz County, City of Laredo, and Mayor of Coronado on border issues.

Office of the Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

1. **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR).** See below.
2. **Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP).**
3. **Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites.** We are working with Region 2 on the Hudson River, Region 4 on Oak Ridge, Region 9 on Edwards Air Force Base, and Region 10 on Portland Harbor.
4. **CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors).**
5. **PFAS.**
 - a. PFOA and PFOS contaminated groundwater guidance.
 - b. Working on inclusion as “hazardous substances” under CERCLA.
6. **e-Manifest.** We are working with OPA on a press release for the one millionth signed manifest.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

1. **2018 Superfund Accomplishments Report.** OLEM is working with OPA and the AO on the upcoming release of this report.
2. **Ignitability Proposed Rule.** The rule package is with OP and we anticipate signature by the Administrator soon.
3. **EPCRA Reporting Requirements Interpretation relating to Air Releases of Hazardous Substances from Animal Waste at Farms NPRM.** The public comment period ended on December 14. We received over 11,000 comments.
4. **CCR.** The CCR Phase 2 rule is with OP for submittal to OMB.

Office of Mission Support

Hot Topic

EPA Releases Annual Environmental Enforcement Results and Story Map

EPA has released the [FY 18 Annual Environmental Enforcement Results and story map](#). The story map walks the public through EPA's collaboration with state and tribal programs to assure compliance with federal environmental laws and enforcement of compliance resources. This includes areas that will have a major environmental or human health impact, such as supporting the integrity of our environmental regulatory programs, creating a deterrent effect, or promoting cleanups (e.g., commitments to address pollution and reduce lead exposure). The website and story map are beneficial to the EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance senior management and staff, states, tribes, local governments, regulated communities and the public.

U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) Joins eRulemaking Program

The [eRulemaking Program](#) is in the process of onboarding its newest partner agency, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board that investigates industrial chemical accidents. The CSB's mission is to "drive chemical safety change through independent investigation to protect people and the environment," with a vision of "a nation safe from chemical disasters." The eRulemaking Program improves citizen services and avoids redundant costs for partner agencies by providing a one-stop federal-wide shared service for posting dockets and receiving comments. This new partnership is important to EPA's Office of Mission Support's eRulemaking and FOIAonline Division, CSB senior management and staff, other federal agencies and the public.

Interagency Agreement to Payment Tracking System

OMS is pleased to announce that the [Interagency Agreement to Payment Tracking System \(IAPTS\) Module](#) deployed on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 and is available for processing all IAs. IAPTS is now the agency's official platform for issuing IA actions and replaces the current Lotus Notes based IA module. End-user resources, including training resources, Frequently Asked Questions and other EPA communications and system updates, are available on the [IAPTS intranet page](#).

Annual Energy Report

OMS submitted EPA's Annual Energy Report narrative to the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program as required under Executive Order 13834, Energy Policy Act of 2005, and Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The EPA continues to meet and/or exceed all federal statutory requirements covering energy intensity reductions, water intensity reductions, renewable energy generation/purchases, advanced metering, energy saving performance contracts, high-performance sustainable buildings metrics, and solid waste diversion performance.

Upcoming Events & Decisions

None

Office of Policy

Hot Topic

Rural Development Conference – On March 6, Office of Community Revitalization staff will discuss strategies for creating sustainable places that improve the quality of life for rural residents at the 30th Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference in Springfield, IL.

Meetings with Community and Faith-based Organizations – In support of President Trump’s Executive Order on Faith and Opportunity Initiative, on March 3-5, Office of Environmental Justice staff will be in Shamokin, PA to meet with community representatives and faith-based leaders on revitalization strategies for the city.

Community Revitalization Presentation – On March 5, Matt Dalbey, Office Director for the Office of Community Revitalization, will discuss EPA’s community revitalization work at UVA's School of Architecture and Public Health.

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB	
Subject	OMB Due Date
USDA/APHIS NPRM: Movement of Certain Genetically Engineered Organisms	02/25/2019
DoD/Navy NPRM (Pass-back): Policies and Responsibilities for Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act within the Department of the Navy	02/28/2019
SBA NPRM: Women-Owned Small Business and Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business – Certification	03/01/2019
OPM NPRM: Probation on Initial Appointment to a Competitive Position, Performance-Based Reduction in Grade and Removal Actions and Adverse Actions	03/05/2019
GSA NPRM: Federal Travel Regulation (FTR); Clarification of Payment In Kind for Speakers at Meetings and Similar Functions	03/05/2019
DOC/NIST Special Publication: Protecting Controlling Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Systems and Organizations - NIST SP 800-171	03/06/2019
DoD/DARS Interim Rule: DFARS Case 2018-D054: Restriction on the Acquisition of Certain Magnets and Tungsten	03/06/2019
DoD/ACE NPRM (Pass-back): Natural Disaster Procedures: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Activities of the Corps of Engineers	N/A
CEQ Instructions (Pass-back): Implementing Instructions for Executive Order 13834: Efficient Federal Operations	N/A

Documents Submitted to OFR from February 20-27, 2019

FRL	Title	Date Submitted to OFR
9988-44-OEI	NSPS for Petroleum Dry Cleaners (Renewal)/ICR No.0997.12	2/27/2019
9988-59-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana; Missoula PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request	2/27/2019
9990-08-Region 8	Revision to Approval of Application Submitted by Eastern Shoshone Tribe and Northern Arapaho Tribe for Treatment in a Similar Manner as a State Under the Clean Air Act	2/27/2019
9990-12-Region 3	40 CFR part 63 - Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Allegheny County Health Department, Withdrawal of Section 112(l) Delegation Authority for the Chemical Accident Prevention Regulations	2/27/2019
9990-24-Region 8	Approvals concerning revisions to North Dakota's environmental protection programs; Delay of effective dates	2/27/2019
9990-28-OAR	40 CFR part 50 - Review of the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Sulfur Oxides	2/27/2019
9990-29-OAR	Recent Postings of Broadly Applicable Alternative Test Methods	2/27/2019
9990-30-Region 4	40 CFR part 52 - Air Plan Approval; Kentucky: Jefferson County Process Operations	2/27/2019
9990-33-OAR	40 CFR parts 51 and 52 - Emissions Monitoring Provisions in State Implementation Plans Required Under the NOX	2/27/2019
9989-81-Region 1	40 CFR part 282 - Massachusetts: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference	2/26/2019
9989-82-Region 1	40 CFR part 282 - Massachusetts: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference	2/26/2019
9987-84-OEI	NESHAP for Steel Pickling, HCl Process Facilities and Hydrochloric Acid	2/25/2019

	Regeneration Plants (Renewal)/ICR No.1821.09	
9988-65-OEI	NESHAP for Mercury (Renewal)/ICR No.0113.13	2/25/2019
9988-80-OAR	40 CFR part 63 - National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Surface Coating of Large Appliances; Printing, Coating, and Dyeing of Fabrics and Other Textiles; and Surface Coating of Metal Furniture Residual Risk and Technology Reviews	2/25/2019
9989-63-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Colorado; Revisions to Regulation Number 3	2/25/2019
9989-76-OAR	40 CFR part 63 - National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil- Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units – Reconsideration of Supplemental Finding and Residual Risk and Technology Review	2/25/2019
9989-83-OA	Request for Nominations of Candidates to the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)	2/25/2019
9989-84-Region 8	Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; Petition for Objection to State Operating Permit for Suncor Energy, Commerce City, Colorado	2/25/2019
9989-87-ORD	Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Homeland Security Subcommittee Meeting – March 2019	2/25/2019
9989-88-ORD	Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Air and Energy Subcommittee Meeting – March 2019	2/25/2019
9990-05-OECA	Applicability Determination Index (ADI) Data System Recent Posting: Agency Applicability Determinations, Alternative Monitoring Decisions, and Regulatory Interpretations Pertaining to Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources, Emission Guidelines and Federal Plan Requirements for Existing Sources, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, and the Stratospheric Ozone Protection Program.	2/25/2019
9990-16-Region 1	40 CFR part 271 - New Hampshire: Proposed Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions	2/25/2019

9990-17-Region 9	40 CFR part 52 - Air Plan Approval; Hawaii; Infrastructure SIP	2/25/2019
9989-05-OCSP	Environmental Modeling Public Meeting	2/22/2019
9989-43-Region 7	40 CFR Appendix A to part 70 - Approval of Operating Permits Program; Kansas; Reporting Emission Data, Emission Fees and Process Information	2/22/2019
9989-90-Region 1	40 CFR part 52 - Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Air Emissions Inventory, Emissions Statements, Source Registration, and Emergency Episode Planning Provisions	2/22/2019
9987-32-OCSP	Abamectin; Pesticide Tolerances	2/21/2019
9986-69-OCSP	Access to Confidential Business Information by Abt Associates Inc.	2/21/2019
9987-83-OCSP	40 CFR part 180 - Waxes and waxy substances, rice bran, oxidized; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance	2/21/2019
9989-94-Region 5	Proposed CERCLA Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent; City of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and City of Kalamazoo Brownfields Redevelopment Authority; Allied Paper Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site, Operable Unit 1, Panelyte Property, Kalamazoo Michigan	2/20/2019
9989-96-OAR	Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Information Collection Request for the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program	2/20/2019

Office of Research and Development

Hot Topic

On March 7, ORD leadership will take part in a meet and greet with Don Welsh, the new ECOS Executive Director. Prior to working at ECOS, Don held several positions at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, including Deputy Secretary for State/Federal Relations. From 2001 to 2009, he served as US EPA Region 3 Regional Administrator.

Hot issues

Tire Crumb Study As a reminder, the draft report on the Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds was sent for external peer-review in May 2018. The first portion, summarizing the Tire Crumb Rubber Characterization Study, is expected to be released by EPA for public comment in Spring 2019. CDC/ATSDR has initiated a full biomonitoring study to investigate potential exposure to constituents in tire crumb rubber infill. The initial 60-day comment period for the CDC Biomonitoring study ended on 2/26/2019. CDC will review comments, then have a second 30-day comment period. Their field work is not expected before summer 2019.

Citizen Science Quality Assurance Handbook The Agency has finalized the Citizen Science Quality Assurance Handbook and we are preparing to share it with stakeholders. Last September, the OIG issued a report asking the Agency to further our vision and strategy for Citizen Science. The handbook provides best practices for citizen science organizations on how to document QA for citizen science projects. Over the next year, EPA will provide training materials for staff and managers, and will work with states, tribes, and other partners to build external capacity in QA for citizen science. We expect each region and each national program to engage on this, by providing training to citizen scientists on this guidance.

WIIN Act Notification, Menasha, WI. In late 2018, Menasha Water Utility collected sequential water profiles for three residences with lead service lines in Menasha, Wisconsin, and sent the profiles to ORD for analysis. The utility also removed the lead service lines and sent them to ORD-Cincinnati for scale analysis. Each of the three homes profiled had several water samples measure at or above 15 ppb total lead. On February 20, ORD provided the data to Region 5, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Menasha's water utility manager, who then notified the affected residents.

Stack Sampling at Hoosick Falls, NY, week of March 17: ORD and Region 2 are leading a team the week of March 17 to qualitatively characterize potential residual PFAS and thermal decomposition product emissions from a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) sintering process at St. Gobain in Hoosick Falls, NY. The Team will perform targeted and non-targeted PFAS analyses, including PFOA, as well as targeted and non-targeted volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to identify compounds present in process emissions.

Upcoming Major Decisions and events (look out two weeks)

EPA-Wide IRIS Briefing. On March 7th, the IRIS Program will brief Agency partners on the hexavalent chromium protocol, in advance of publication for public comment and related public science meeting.

Society of Toxicologists 2019, March 10-14, Baltimore, MD. EPA scientists will showcase their research through 30 symposia, workshops, informational sessions, roundtables and 120 platform and poster sessions at the 2019 Society of Toxicology (SOT) 58th Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland on March 10-14. 6,500 toxicologists and 350 exhibitors will attend the meeting this year, making this event the largest gathering of industry, governmental, and academic toxicologists in the world.

Office of Water

Hot Topic

PFAS Action Plan: Next week, Dave will testify before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, the Subcommittee on Environment, on the EPA's examination of PFAS chemicals and their risks. Tomorrow, the EPA will provide briefings on the PFAS Action Plan to the Senate Environment and Public Works staff, full Senate staff, and staff of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. These briefings follow on briefings to the House Energy and Commerce Committee staff and full House staff held last week.

Water Reuse Action Plan: This week, at a water reuse workshop in San Francisco, Dave announced the development of a Water Reuse Action Plan that will leverage the expertise of both industry and government to ensure the effective use of the Nation's water resources. The Plan will seek to foster water reuse as an important component of integrated water resource management. Through this effort, the EPA plans to accelerate the innovative work already happening across the water sector through coordinated federal leadership to advance water reuse. A draft of the plan is anticipated to be released for public review in September at the Annual WaterReuse Symposium in San Diego.

Water Quality Trading Webinar: Next week, the Office of Water will host a webinar to further discuss the use of water quality trading, offsets, and similar programs for achieving compliance with regulatory requirements of the Clean Water Act. The webinar is open press and has approximately 250 preregistered attendees.

Upcoming Public Events

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers Environmental Committee Meeting: Next week, Dave will present at this meeting on the Office of Water's 2019 regulatory priorities affecting the refinery and petrochemical industries. Event closed to press.

National Governors Association (NGA) WOTUS Briefing: Next week, Lee and Owen will meet with the NGA to discuss the proposed WOTUS definition. Event will be closed to press.

United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Natural Resources Committee: Next week, Dave will provide a welcome and opening remarks on WOTUS and funding for tribal programs at the Committee meeting. Closed to press.

Ecological Restoration Business Association Annual Policy Conference: Next week, Lee will give remarks on mitigation bank credits and Clean Water Act section 404 mitigation reform at this conference. Event closed to press.